

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A method for manufacturing a discharge tube having a glass tube into which rare gas is put, a glass bead for sealing an end of said glass tube, and an electrode lead to be fixed to said glass bead, said method comprising the steps of:

applying heat by use of a heat application device to oxidize only a surface of a predetermined adhesion area of said electrode lead; and
fixing said glass bead to said adhesion area of said electrode lead.

2. (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heat application device ~~comprising~~ comprises a pair of electrode members and a power source that applies a predetermined voltage between said pair of electrode members to heat said adhesion area.

3. (original): A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least a portion of said electrode member to contact said electrode lead is made of a conductive material.

4. (original): A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a degree of oxidation of said adhesion area is adjusted by changing the voltage, the electric current, the energizing period of said power source, or a combination thereof.
5. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heat application device is a laser device that irradiates laser light to said adhesion area of said electrode lead.
6. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heat application device is an infrared light device that irradiates infrared light to said adhesion area of said electrode lead.
7. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heat application device is a heater device that applies heat to said adhesion area of said electrode lead without contacting said electrode lead.
8. (original): A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said heat application device is a ring-shaped ceramic heater with a hole to insert said electrode lead.
9. (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heat application device is a high frequency induction heating device that is composed of a coil section that covers

said adhesion area without contacting said electrode lead and a high frequency power source section that generates ~~alternative~~an alternating current with high frequency to said coil section, thereby induction current is flown in said electrode lead to oxidize only the surface of said adhesion area.

10. (new): A discharge tube comprising:

a glass tube;

a glass bead sealing an end of the glass tube; and

an electrode lead fixed to the glass bead, the electrode lead having an oxidized portion only at a predetermined adhesion area where the electrode lead is fixed to the glass bead.

11. (new): The discharge bulb according to claim 10, wherein the glass tube encloses a rare gas.